

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: August 9, 2002

RE: State Hospital Length of Stay, 1992 through 2002

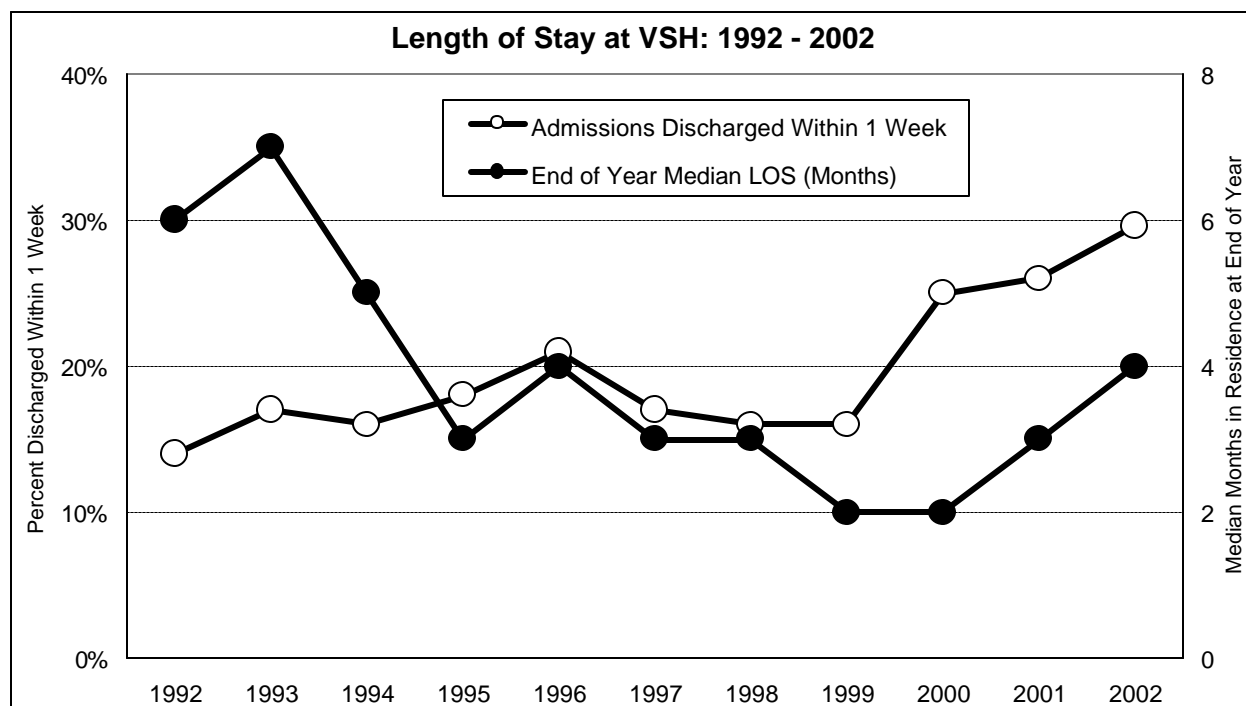
The attached table and graph were prepared in response to a request from the adult mental health unit for information on any changes in length of stay at the Vermont State Hospital. Two measures of length of stay are provided for FY1992 through FY2002. The first measure is the proportion of all clients admitted during the year who are discharged within one week. This is a measure of the length of stay of people who enter the hospital. This measure is not sensitive to individuals who had been admitted during previous years, so it tends to understate the overall length of stay of patients. The second measure, the median length of stay for patients in residence at the end of the year includes long-term patients but does not include individuals who had been both admitted and discharged within the year. It overstates the length of stay of patients. Together, however, these two measures provide a good sense of the length of stay of state hospital patients.

As you will see, the proportion of people admitted who were discharged within one week has increased substantially during the past four years, from 16% in 1999 to 30% in 2002. During this same time period, the length of stay for people in residence at the end of the year also increased, from 2 months to 4 months. It appears that there have been two opposite trends occurring at VSH over the past four years. People who are admitted are leaving sooner, while people who continue are staying longer.

These trends need to be considered in light of the fact that VSH 2002 admissions were the highest since 1998, and that the VSH 2002 end-of-year census was the highest since 1997.

As always, please send you comments and requests for further information to [pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or call 802-241-2638.

# **Length of Stay at The Vermont State Hospital: FY1992 - FY2002**



Year	Admissions Discharged Within 1 Week		End of Year Length of Stay	
	Total # of Admissions	Percent	# in Residence	Median LOS
2002	240	30%	59	4 months
2001	221	26%	49	3 months
2000	224	25%	52	2 months
1999	224	16%	48	2 months
1998	304	16%	51	3 months
1997	302	17%	73	3 months
1996	289	21%	60	4 months
1995	313	18%	75	3 months
1994	302	16%	63	5 months
1993	268	17%	79	7 months
1992	367	14%	97	6 months

The discharge rate for clients admitted to the Vermont State Hospital during a fiscal year is based on the number of days between each patient's admission to the hospital and his or her discharge. The "median" length of stay is the time between the most recent admission and the end of the year for the patient who had been at the hospital as long as half of the patients in residence.